

20 Dec 88

TO: ICS Registry

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REMARKS:

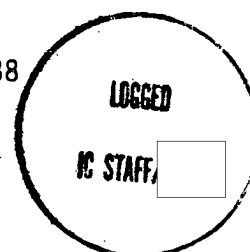
FROM:

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EXTENSION

21 DEC 1988

ICS 3837-88
20 December 1988



MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Lieutenant General Edward J. Heinz, USAF
Director, Intelligence Community Staff

SUBJECT: Creation of a DCI Counternarcotics Committee

REFERENCE: HPSCI Chairman Stokes' 13 December Letter to You on
Narcotics

1. After reviewing the referenced correspondence, and in light of the pending appointment of a federal drug czar, I think the time has come for us to act in response to Chairman Stokes' call for "centralized coordination of counternarcotics efforts within the National Foreign Intelligence Program." This is an issue that has troubled me for some time, and I am now convinced that we can make a significant contribution to this increasingly vital and diverse problem, and gain strong Congressional support in the process, if we act promptly and comprehensively. Such opportunities arise rarely.

2. Specifically, I propose that we establish a DCI Committee on Counternarcotics that would be responsible for coordination and oversight of all aspects of the Intelligence Community's counternarcotics activities, and be the Community's interface with the drug czar and other non-Community agencies engaged in the counternarcotics activities, i.e. DEA, Customs, and Coast Guard. This Committee's responsibilities would include requirements and priorities, collection, processing, exploitation, and production of counternarcotics intelligence. (Oversight of related covert action would be handled through established procedures, with the CIA representative on the Committee obliged to keep the Committee Chairman informed broadly as necessary.)

3. I further propose that I chair the Committee due to the cross-discipline and multiagency nature of counternarcotics intelligence, and the growing DoD involvement in the problem. This new DCI Committee will need to steer future investments and other programmatic adjustments, both of which are among my primary functions. Further, the ICS is a logical focal point for Committee support. Examples of our past relevant work include my chairmanship of the Caribbean Basin Steering Group, and counternarcotics-specific efforts such as the DCI's One-Percent Fund, two Intelligence Community producer-collector-consumer seminars, and our review of the National Narcotics Border Interdiction System.

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4. I intend to propose for your approval, by early January, a detailed implementation plan for the new Committee, including a draft DCI directive spelling out its mission and functions.

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5. Counternarcotics intelligence is a substantively difficult, politically charged, growth industry. But, if the Community is not careful and thoughtful, the resources and time committed can be easily wasted, and potentially be counterproductive. We need a strong, DCI sanctioned, Community-wide mechanism to ensure that this does not happen, while orchestrating the best support possible. Clearly, CIA must play a major role in our counternarcotics efforts, but I am skeptical that putting CIA in the lead for Community matters is a good idea. While I have not discussed this issue with other senior officers in the Community, I suspect they would see a Counternarcotics Committee with the ICS in the lead as a normal part of our responsibilities.

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6. If you would like to discuss this further, or issue instructions, please let me know.

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Edward J. Heinz
Lieutenant General, USAF

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